## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

## LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1. (original) Process for the production of aldonic acids with the general formula (I): HOCH2- (CHOH) n-COOH (I) wherein n is an integer from 1 to 4, and their salts or lactones, comprising the following steps: a) reduction of gold (III) and platinum (II) compounds to colloidal gold and platinum from an aqueous solution containing a gold (III) compound or a mixture of gold (III) and platinum (II) compounds and, in the capacity of colloid-protecting agent, a monosaccharide with six carbon atoms or a disaccharide formed by two monosaccharide units with six carbon atoms; b) addition of an aldose with the formula (II) HOCH2- (CHOH)"-CHO (II) wherein n is as previously defined; c) oxidation with oxygen or a gas containing oxygen.
- 2. (original) Process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the concentration of the gold (III) and platinum (II) compounds is 0.1-0.2 mg/ml.
- 3. (currently amended) Process as claimed in <a href="claim 1">claim 1</a> claims 1-2, wherein the Au (III) compound is HAuCl4 and the Pt (II) compound is K2PtCl4.
- 4. (currently amended) Process as claimed in any of <u>claim 1</u> <del>claims 1-3</del>, wherein the reducing agent is selected from among sodium borohydride, formaldehyde, formic acid and salts thereof, citric acid and salts thereof, and hydrogen.
- 5. (original) Process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the reducing agent is sodium borohydride.

- 6. (currently amended) Process as claimed in <a href="claim 1">claim 1</a> any of the preceding claims, wherein the monosaccharide is glucose or fructose.
- 7. (currently amended) Process as claimed in  $\frac{\text{claim 1}}{\text{any of}}$  elaims 1-6, wherein the disaccharide is saccharose.
- 8. (currently amended) Process as claimed in  $\frac{\text{claim 1}}{\text{the preceding claims}}$ , wherein the concentration of monosaccharide or disaccharide is between 0.1 and 30 mg/ml.
- 9. (currently amended) Process as claimed in <u>claim 1</u> any of the preceding claims, wherein the quantity of aldose with formula (II) added is such that the final concentration is between 0.5 and 2 g/ml.
- 10. (original) Process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the quantity of aldose with formula (II) added is such that the final concentration is approx. 1 g/ml.
- 11. (currently amended) Process as claimed in  $\frac{\text{claim 1}}{\text{any of}}$  the preceding claims, wherein the aldose with formula (II) is glucose.
- 12. (currently amended) Process as claimed in <u>claim 1</u> any of the preceding claims, wherein a support selected from among activated carbon, titania and alumina is added after reduction of the gold and platinum compounds, and the supported catalyst thus obtained is isolated before use.
- 13. (original) Process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the support is activated carbon having an average particle size of between 5 and 100 micrometres and a specific surface of at least 200 m $^2/g$ .
- 14. (original) Process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the activated carbon has a specific surface of 1200 m2/g.

- 15. (currently amended) Process as claimed in <u>claim 12</u> any of <del>claims 12-14</del>, wherein the total gold and platinum content of the catalyst is between 0.1 and 10% of the weight of the support.
- 16. (original) Process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the total gold and platinum content of the catalyst is approximately 1 % of the weight of the support.
- 17. (currently amended) Process as claimed in <u>claim 1</u> any of the preceding claims, wherein the weight ratio between metallic gold and platinum is between 5 and 0.2.
- 18. (original) Process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the weight ratio between metallic gold and platinum is approx 2.
- 19. (currently amended) Process as claimed in <u>claim 1</u> any of the preceding claims, wherein the metals have an average particle size of between 1 and 20 nanometres.
- 20. (currently amended) Process as claimed in <u>claim 1</u> any of the preceding claims, wherein the partial oxygen pressure is between 0.2 and 10 bars.
- 21. (original) Bimetallic catalyst based on gold and platinum for oxidation of aldoses to aldonic acids, in particular for oxidation of glucose to gluconic acid, supported on activated carbon, characterised by a total gold and platinum content of between 0.1 and 10% of the weight of the support and a weight ratio between gold and platinum of between 5 and 0.2, the metals having an average particle size of between 1 and 20 nanometres and the activated carbon having an average particle size of between 5 and 100 micrometres and a specific surface of approx. 1200 m2/g.

- 22. (original) Catalyst as claimed in claim 21, characterised by a total gold and platinum content of approx. 1 % of the weight of the support.
- 23. (currently amended) Catalyst as claimed in <u>claim 21</u> <del>claims</del> <del>21-22</del>, characterised by a weight ratio between gold and platinum of approx 2.
- 24. (currently amended) Catalyst as claimed in claim 21 any of elaims 21-23, prepared by reducing an aqueous solution of gold (III) and platinum (II) compounds and a monosaccharide with six carbon atoms or a disaccharide formed by two monosaccharide units with six carbon atoms, adding a support constituted by activated carbon to the colloidal solution thus obtained, and isolating the supported catalyst thus obtained by filtration